

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 438 without my signature.

This bill seeks to adjust the exit criteria for the II/USP and HPSGP program. School districts participate in the II/USP and HPSGP on a voluntary basis and are aware of the criteria used to determine their school's improvement and readiness to exit the program. Adjusting the exit criteria so that the average score is used will undermine the goal of achieving academic improvement for our state's struggling schools. If there are any changes to these programs, they should be made as part of a comprehensive change to align the state and federal accountability systems, not in a piecemeal approach that simply serves to lower the standards of accountability.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger